Title: Need to clear the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for inter-connecting of tourist centres in the State by trains covering Secundrabad-Puttaparthy-Tirupathi-Guntur-Rajahmundry-Visakapatnam -- Laid.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Slowly but increasingly tourism is getting notice in the corridors of the Government policy makers. Hyderabad, as you are aware it has rich history of over four hundred glorious years. It has gone through dynasties and seen royalty in all its glory. The monuments of Hyderabad are the standing structure that bears its testimony to a splendid and brilliant past. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been presistently working to beautify the city and to make it a place in the list of heritage cities of world. The State Government has recently approved a master plan to develop ten major temples in the State as spiritual, tourist and cultural centres. Facilities like hotels, recreation land entertainment etc. are being built by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. To project this historic city to the world, the link of air and tourist-cum-pilgrim trains covering Secundrabad-Puttaparthy-Tiruplathi-Guntur-Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam on the lines of Palace on Wheels is the need of the hour. The proposal for running this train as a Joint Venture with the Railways was sent by the South Central Railways to the Railway Board in September, 2001. On 15.01.2002, the Government of Andhra Pradesh reiterated its request the introduction of the train. The status of the projects is yet to be conveyed by the Union Government to the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Since the matter is pending for a long time, I request the Union Minister for Railways to clear the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh.